

Why We Still Vigil

We believe that these times of unprecedented global insecurity – environmental, economic, social, and political – call for imaginative and dramatically new ways to promote peace and justice.

We condemn all forms of terrorism. Further, we believe that war and oppression are acts of terror because they victimize innocent civilians in overwhelming numbers. The best way to fight terrorism, therefore, is not to participate in it by waging war but, instead, to respect global human rights and work to reduce the economic and social conditions that cause poverty and injustice in the world.

We continue to believe that non-violence and non-military actions – through grassroots activities, diplomacy, and international law – are the best means of settling local, regional, and global differences.

We believe the U. S. invasion of Iraq was unnecessary, illegal, and unjust. We believe the U. S. furthered this injustice through our continuing military, economic, and administrative occupation of Iraq.

We call for the end of all U. S. military engagement in Iraq, including all permanent bases, and the cessation of military activity in Afghanistan through a negotiated peace.

We believe that military actions by recent U. S. administrations have caused the destruction of international law, weakened the peacekeeping and humanitarian roles of the United Nations, and made Americans less secure at home and abroad.

We believe that our country does not have the right to global military supremacy, the right to preemptively attack any sovereign nation assumed to be a potential threat, or the right to first use of nuclear weapons.

We believe that the explosive Israeli/Palestinian conflict remains the major barrier to peace in the Middle East and that the U. S. must support and work for peace, dignity, and justice for all parties.

We denounce U. S. support for Israel's occupation of Palestine and its oppression of the Palestinian people.

We denounce U. S. dominance as the leading supplier of weapons in the international arms market, often to undemocratic regimes and gross abusers of human rights.

We denounce the manufacture and use of depleted uranium weapons. Their use in Iraq in the Gulf Wars I & II, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan has brought untold harm to people (all troops, including our own, innocent civilians, and the unborn) and caused extensive damage to the environment.

We demand that our government act responsibly and clean up the soils and waters radiated by depleted uranium, including those areas in the United States.

We oppose any use of nuclear weapons and call for global nuclear disarmament.

We condemn the reckless waste of our country's human and economic resources by the military-industrial complex. We

believe that these billions of our tax dollars should be invested in sustainable energy, education, health care, jobs, housing, and support for global human rights.

We support major increases in veterans' benefits, especially programs that treat war-related medical and mental health problems of veterans and their families.

We believe that the leaders of our government, past and present, should be held accountable for violations of the U. S. Constitution and international law.

We support the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.

We call on all citizens to reclaim our democracy – to honor dissent, vote regularly and responsibly, demand a free press, oppose abusive corporate power, and protect every individual's right to privacy.

We stand and work for peace and justice. There is much work to do. Active peacemaking is everyone's responsibility!



Merrimack Valley People for Peace

List of useful resources . . .

These resources are included to assist you in finding news coverage and commentary outside the mainstream media.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

www.alternet.org

www.antiwar.com

www.commondreams.org

www.costofwar.org

www.democracynow.org

www.globalissues.org

www.ifamericansknew.org

www.informationclearinghouse.info

www.nomorevictims.org

www.nonviolence.org/vitw

www.peace-action.org

www.truthout.org

www.wagingpeace.org

www.warincontext.org

www.zcommunications.org/znet

DEPLETED URANIUM

www.bandepleteduranium.org

www.idust.net

www.ippnw.org

BLOGS

www.dahrjamailiraq.com

www.juancole.com

ORGANIZATIONS

www.afsc.org

www.moveon.org

www.unitedforpeace.org

Merrimack Valley People for Peace meets monthly, on the fourth Tuesday, at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church in North Andover. Please join us.

Visit our website for directions.

Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. works for a sustainable future for all life on our planet. Our members commit themselves to the interrelated activities of education for peace and justice, for the prevention of war, an end to arms sales, the abolition of nuclear weapons, economic diversification, and the protection of the environment.

Citizen's Oath of Office, 2009

"I do solemnly pledge that I will faithfully execute the office of citizen of the United States, and that I will, to the best of my ability, help create a truly democratic world by 1) going beyond mainstream corporate news media to seek out information about important political, economic, and social issues; 2) engaging fellow citizens, including those who disagree with me, in serious discussion and debate about those issues; 3) committing as much time, energy and money as possible to help build authentic grassroots political organizations that can pressure politicians to put the interests of people over profit and power; and 4) connecting these efforts to global political and social movements fighting the U. S. Empire abroad, where it does the most intense damage. I will continue to resist corporate control of the world, resist militarism, resist any roll-back of civil rights, and resist illegitimate authority in all its forms. And I will commit to collective efforts in my local community to help build joyful alternatives to an unsustainable consumer society."

Robert Jensen, University of Texas at Austin

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2009

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***Merrimack
Valley
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Peace***

www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org